

A RESOLUTION to honor Maxine A. Smith on her retirement from
the Memphis Branch of the NAACP.

WHEREAS, it is appropriate that the members of this legislative body recognize those public servants who, in their years of work, have performed with remarkable dedication and unprecedented devotion; and

WHEREAS, Maxine A. Smith is one such eminent person who has served with industry and diligence as Executive Director of the Memphis Branch of the NAACP; and

WHEREAS, Mrs. Smith's stellar career began in the early 1960's when she was a participant in the Freedom Movement from 1960-1961 and began service as the Executive Secretary of the Memphis Branch of the NAACP; and

WHEREAS, Mrs. Smith served as instructor of French at Prairie View A&M in Texas and Florida A&M University in Tallahassee, and was an assistant professor of French and English at LeMoyne-Owen College in Memphis; and

WHEREAS, working diligently for the betterment of Memphis is one arena in which Mrs. Smith thrives, giving of her time and numerous talents as a member of the Mayor's Task Force on Education, Civil Rights Museum Board of Directors, and former President of the Memphis Board of Education. She is a present member of the Tennessee State Board of Regents; and

WHEREAS, Mrs. Smith is a graduate of Spelman College, where she received her A.B. degree. She also received her M.A. from Middlebury College and an honorary LL.D. from LeMoyne-Owen College; and

WHEREAS, Mrs. Smith was named one of the most influential citizens of Memphis and is the recipient of over 120 awards and citations, including being named YWCA Woman of the Year and being cited in the first edition of "Who's Who Among Black Americans"; and

WHEREAS, her many accomplishments aside, Mrs. Smith is most appreciative of the love and support she shares with her loving husband, Dr. Vasco A. Smith Jr., and their son, Vasco A. Smith, III; and

WHEREAS, Mrs. Smith's crowning achievement has been her outstanding work with the NAACP in which organization she has been a leader of the South's largest branch for more than 30 years; and

WHEREAS, Mrs. Smith will relinquish the mantle of this most important position for a well-deserved retirement; and

WHEREAS, this body is proud to pause in its deliberations to specially recognize the legacy of a tried and true Tennessean; now, therefore,

BE IT RESOLVED BY THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES OF THE NINETY-NINTH GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF THE STATE OF TENNESSEE, THE SENATE CONCURRING, That we hereby commend Maxine Smith for her superlative service as Executive Director of the Memphis Branch of the NAACP and congratulate her on her retirement and for a job well done.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, That an appropriate copy of this resolution be prepared for presentation with this final clause omitted from such copy.